



Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

**VA Health Care Upstate New York  
VA Western New York Healthcare System**  
3495 Bailey Avenue | Buffalo, NY 14215  
222 Richmond Avenue | Batavia, NY 14020  
[www.buffalo.va.gov](http://www.buffalo.va.gov)

## NEWS RELEASE

**Date: May 9, 2012**

Contact: Evangeline Conley, Public Affairs Officer  
Phone: (716) 862-8753 Cell: (716) 512-9338  
Fax: (716) 862-8755  
E-mail: [Evangeline.Conley@va.gov](mailto:Evangeline.Conley@va.gov)

### **VA Western New York Healthcare System Celebrates Nurses Week**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the nation's largest single employer of nurses, joins the American Nurses Association in honoring America's nurses dedicated to saving lives and maintaining the health of millions of individuals during National Nurses Week, May 6-12.

This year's Nurses Week theme is "Nurses: Advocating, Leading, Caring" and VA health care facilities throughout the country will pay tribute to their 80,000 nurses who Brian Stiller, VA Western New York Healthcare System Medical Center Director describes "as the compassionate backbone of VA's world-class health care system."

*The Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing and Advancement of Nursing Programs* is given to individuals who have been nominated by their colleagues for demonstrating excellence in service to Veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs. They have displayed the best characteristics and the highest level of dedication to their profession. Chosen from individual medical centers, the nominees go through a rigorous review before the final selection is made.

VA Western New York is pleased to announce this year's award recipients in categories listed: Daniel Cleveland, RN in an expanded Registered Nurse Role from Elma; Michele Colello, RN in a Staff Nurse Role from Williamsville; Joanne Szeliga, Licensed Practical Nurse from Lockport and Renee Hall, Nursing Assistant from Buffalo.

They were honored at a breakfast reception at the medical center this week.

# # # # #